

Appl. No. 10/730,787
Amdt. dated February 10, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 10, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 6. The sheet, which includes Figs 6 and 7, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 6 and 7. In Fig. 6, the previously omitted element 54 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The examiner's comments and the references cited in the outstanding Office action have been carefully considered. Applicant sincerely appreciates the examiner's indication that claim 12 is allowed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 8, 10, 11, 13-16 and 20 were rejected on Section 103(a) obviousness grounds based on Churchich U.S. 4,757, 588 in view of Sipe U.S. 1, 81 7,776. However, Churchich shows push-on hose pliers for attaching a flexible hose 14 to a hose fitting 11. The fitting 11 is inserted into the hose 14 passage. Applicant's invention, on the other hand, is a coupling system wherein the conduit is inserted into the coupling.


Sipe shows a coupling 10 for receiving pipes 14, but does not disclose a clamping/pushing tool. Moreover, neither reference includes any suggestion or motivation for combination with the other. All of the remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from claims 1-4, 8, 10, 11, 13-16 and 20 and therefore distinguish over the prior art for the same reasons.

Claim 14 has been amended to overcome the informality objection. Fig. 6 has been amended to include the omitted reference 54.

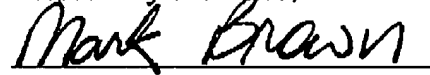
Based on the foregoing, the application is in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if prosecution of this application can be expedited thereby.

I hereby certify that this paper is being filed by facsimile transmission (571-273-8300) with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Date of fax transmission: February 10, 2006


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Respectfully Submitted,


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Attachments

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